

## CHAPTER 3

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### RECYCLING

Texans annually dispose of more than 22 million tons of trash—more than one ton for every person in the state. That’s enough garbage to fill the Astrodome every two weeks. As our population increases, so does the volume of the wastes we create. At the same time, landfills in Texas are closing—and new ones are difficult to open. In Texas, about half of the solid waste generated is from the workplace. Fortunately, waste is a problem we can do something about. Many workplaces are finding that recycling makes environmental sense and economic sense. When companies reduce their waste, they reduce their disposal costs. Also, when you recycle wastes, these wastes cannot become nonpoint source pollutants.

Every workplace, large and small, can benefit from a recycling program. The TNRCC’s publication *Recycling at Work: Workplace Recycling Guide* (GI-040), provides a ten-step plan for starting or enhancing a recycling program for Texas workplaces. Also, small businesses can promote recycling by buying recycled products. This helps “close the loop.”

#### **Helpful Publications**

##### *Demand the Supply: Buy Recycled* (GI-234)

This guide will help you start or enhance a buy-recycled program at work.

##### *Texas Directory of Recycling Resources and Information* (GI-187)

This directory lists recycling contacts for most Texas cities, councils of government, state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and trade associations in Texas. The directory also contains a list of recycling and composting periodicals.

##### *Recycle Texas* (GI-224)

This directory lists more than 800 handlers of recyclable materials to assist waste generators in locating services.

##### *The RENEW Catalog* (PD-002)

RENEW, the Resource Exchange for Eliminating Waste is a materials exchange network. This network is a marketing channel for industries, businesses, and governmental entities that want to sell surplus materials, by-products, and wastes to users who will reclaim or reuse them.

### *Market News* (PD-008)

This monthly newsletter spotlights recycling trends.

### *Green Guide to Yard Care* (GI-028)

This comprehensive guide to on-site composting and yard trimmings management includes an overview of the “Don’t Bag It” program, mulching, compost recipes, compost vs. commercial fertilizer, Xeriscaping watering tips, and low-impact pest management.

## **Related Programs**

### **CLEAN TEXAS STAR**

The purpose of the TNRCC’s CLEAN TEXAS STAR program is to encourage a voluntary and significant reduction in solid waste generation and disposal in Texas. The program offers members—businesses, government agencies, nonprofits, schools, and other organizations—a waste reduction plan to save money, public recognition to spotlight achievements, and technical assistance to boost efforts. There are currently more than 1,400 Texas members. For more information on the CLEAN TEXAS STAR program, call (512)239-6750.

### **Recycling Market Development**

The TNRCC’s Recycling Market Development Program provides assistance to communities, businesses, and individuals for the development and expansion of markets for recovered material generated within the state. This program:

- maintains a recycling markets database that lists collectors, processors, brokers, and end users of recyclable materials in Texas
- publishes the annual *Recycle Texas* directory, a hard-copy version of the recycling markets database that lists companies by the materials they handle
- publishes a monthly newsletter, *Market News*, which spotlights current trends and prices of recyclable materials in Texas.

## **Technical Assistance**

For technical assistance, call the TNRCC Recycling Section at 512/239-6750, or write to:

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Recycling  
P.O. Box 13087, MC-114  
Austin, TX 78711-3087